



Fig. 1.—Design of the Christmas Seal Stamp printed by the California Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis in the year 1909. It was in red and green, the design being built on the seal of the City of Los Angeles. (Reprinted from the September, 1909, "Bulletin of the California Association." Courtesy of the Barlow Medical Library.)

tuberculosis associations is "Millions for tribute, but not one cent for defense." With the physician well compensated for his services, with competent medical care within the financial reach of all, with the newer methods of detecting the early case of tuberculosis, such as tuberculin testing, portable x-rays, paper films, using the fluoroscope for a screening device, it should become increasingly possible for us to crush the life from this tuberculosis adder and leave it extinct for all time.

SHORTCOMINGS OF HEALTH EDUCATION

Finally, among our liabilities we must face the fact that our past methods of health education, both among adults and in the public schools, have been none too effective. They are far from useless, as evidenced by the fact that at least today we take advantage of the child's presence in school to attempt to interest him in health and personal hygiene. Another evidence that our health education methods are of some use is the diminishing quantity of sputum on our streets and in our public buildings, as compared with twenty-five years ago. Nevertheless, in all frankness, we must admit that there is evidence that we have annoyed many of our desired converts with our preachments on something in which they are not interested; that we have talked over the heads of many of the lay public, and even hygiene teachers, and perhaps even public health nurses; that our careful and painstaking and time-consuming scientific researches have been misunderstood by our would-be supporters as extreme conservatism; that, as scientists, we have spent much more time in ascertaining scientific truths than in explaining those truths to the general public once they are established; that even in this progressive state, a pioneer in its formation of a state health department, we have not influenced legislation sufficiently to bring about adequate appropriations to the State Board of Health as compared with other states. These and many others constitute our liabilities under the classification of health education. They outline for us a definite future course in this field.

We must learn how to instruct properly those people who are not interested in health, and to engender in them a receptive attitude toward health messages. We, as medical men, must learn either to speak plainly and simply to our public, or must teach others to do this for us. We must teach our assistants and the public to be patient with the painstaking and inexorable exactness of the scientific method. We must emphasize the

importance of "Millions, if need be, for defense, but not one cent for tribute." We must gradually impress our legislators with the fact that there is a large and influential public health vote in this state variously estimated from 100,000 to 250,000, which will be cast one way or the other according to the candidate's stand on public health matters. We must discover some better means of providing adequate medical care for the entire population regardless of financial status in a manner that will be just and equitable and encouraging to the physician, as well as reasonable, satisfactory, economical, and fair to the public. This is a problem affecting public health equally with organized medicine, and it is one in which we must all work together.

III. IN CONCLUSION

I have purposely dwelt at more length upon our liabilities than upon our assets, believing that such a discussion might serve a more useful purpose. There can, however, be no doubt that this antituberculosis institution of ours is liquid and solvent in this year of 1934. With that happy adaptability to changing conditions which the antituberculosis movement has always shown, we can look forward with certainty toward turning many of our present liabilities into assets. A cause that is in the right cannot fail to survive and prosper. Today, as in the day of our forefathers, no cause is more right than the control of a disease which is largely preventable, and which consequently falls into the cause of public health.

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CLINICAL NOTES AND CASE REPORTS

PRESERVING BACTERIOLOGICAL SMEARS

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ONE occasionally wishes to preserve for reference a particularly good slide, and as cover-slips are not entirely satisfactory (or, as James says, "They are an unmitigated nuisance") I have for some time used the following method; and because I have not seen this described before, I am passing it on.

The slide to be preserved is made as usual and then dried; and when perfectly dry, a 50 per cent solution of water-glass, sodium silicate, which is very alkaline in reaction, is poured over the smear, spread evenly with a match stick, and the excess is allowed to run off at the end of the slide. The slide is then placed in a horizontal position and allowed to dry.

The sodium silicate hardens into a glass which becomes intimately connected to the slide, thus hermetically sealing in the smear.

Unless, however, the water-glass is evenly spread an astigmatic surface will result; but this is largely overcome when the oil immersion lens is used.

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